Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Method for inhibiting <u>magnesium hydroxide</u> scale formation on structural parts in contact with an aqueous <u>salt containing</u> medium in a desalination system comprising:

adding to said <u>aqueous salt containing medium in the</u> system a treatment, <u>said</u> <u>treatment</u> comprising

(a) a phosphono functional polymer I including a repeat unit of the structure

$$\begin{array}{c|c} R_1 \\ \hline \\ H_2C - C \\ \hline \\ X - P - X \\ \hline \\ O \end{array}$$

wherein R_1 is H or lower alkyl of from about 1 to 6 carbon atoms and wherein X is OH, or OM wherein M is a cation; and wherein Mw for the phosphonate polymer (I) ranges from about 500 to 50,000;

b) a carboxylate containing polymer II; and

c) a dispersant;

wherein said aqueous salt containing medium comprises magnesium cations and hydroxide anions under conditions in which, in absence of treatment, Mg(OH)₂ scale would form on said structural parts;

whereby the method inhibits formation of $Mg(OH)_2$ scale on the structural parts of the desalination system without the use of mineral acid doping.

2. (Canceled)

- 3. (Currently amended) Method as recited in claim 2 1 wherein said phosphono functional polymer I comprises a second repeat unit formed from polymerization of a nonphosphonate monomer (F).
- 4. (Original) Method as recited in claim 3 wherein said non phosphonate monomer (F) is a member selected from the group consisting of (i) carboxylate monomers, (ii) sulfonate monomers, (iii) amides, and (iv) allylethers and sulfonate and phosphate allyl ethers.
- 5. (Currently amended) Method as recited in claim 4 wherein said <u>non</u> phosphonate monomer (F) is a carboxylate monomer, <u>said treatment further comprising a carboxylate polymer II</u>, said <u>phosphono functional polymer II</u> and <u>carboxylate polymer II</u> being added to said aqueous medium in a combined amount I and II of about 1-500 ppm.
- 6. (Currently amended) Method as recited in claim 5 1 wherein said carboxylate polymer II is a polymaleic acid or anhydride thereof.

7. (Canceled)

- 8. (Currently amended) Method as recited in claim $7 \underline{1}$ wherein said phosphonate phosphono functional polymer \underline{I} is poly(isopropenylphosphonic acid).
- 9. (Currently amended) Method as recited in claim § 1 wherein said <u>phosphono functional</u> <u>phosphonate</u> polymer <u>I</u> is poly(vinylphosphonic acid).

10. (Currently amended) Method as recited in claim 9 1 wherein said phosphono functional phosphonate polymer (I) comprises a copolymer having a repeat unit (F) of the structure

$$R_{2}$$
 $|$
 $-\text{CH}_{2}$
 $C = O$
 $|$
 $C = O$

wherein R₂ is H or CH₃, and R₃ is H or a cation.

- 11. (Canceled)
- 12. (Canceled)
- 13. (Canceled)
- 14. (Currently amended) Method of inhibiting magnesium hydroxide scale formation in a desalination system in which an aqueous salt containing medium is brought into contact with system equipment, comprising adding to said aqueous medium a treatment comprising
 - a) polymer of isopropenylphosphonic acid;

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- b) a carboxylate containing polymer of acrylic acid and its salts, maleic acid and its salts and anhydride, and copolymers or mixtures thereof,
 - c) a dispersant; and optionally a
 - e) phosphonate;

wherein said aqueous salt containing medium comprises magnesium cations and hydroxide anions under conditions in which, in absence of treatment, Mg(OH)₂ scale would form on said system equipment; and

whereby the method inhibits formation of $Mg(OH)_2$ scale on the system equipment of the desalination system without the use of mineral acid doping.

15. (Original) Method as recited in claim 14 wherein said carboxylate containing polymer is a polymaleic polymer or anhydride.